



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TMC and TAMWG
FROM: Mike Dixon, Acting Executive Director
 Trinity River Restoration Program
SUBJECT: Director's Report
DATE: January 23, 2017

Major TRRP activities between September 27 and December 5, 2016 focused on program efforts to further permitting actions, propose changes to winter base flow, fill vacancies, and prepare a FY18 work plan. Details on some of these activities follow.

Organizational Updates

Executive Director: Interviews for the ED vacancy were held in October. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo was selected. Having served for months as acting ED, she is well known to this program. She will be reporting aboard formally on 08 JAN 2017. Caryn is currently managing a \$525 million restoration Program in the Truckee River, Walker River, and Summit Lake Basins in CA and NV. She has been working with river restoration projects for 13 years. Projects she manages include river channel rehabilitation projects, water rights acquisitions for instream and terminal lake fisheries, land acquisitions for tribal reservations, river flow, water storage, and water allocation management, fisheries and watershed conservation research, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, and tribal fish hatchery facility upgrades. Caryn coordinates the Program work with Native American Tribes, federal, state, and local agencies, universities, and national/local non-profits.

Caryn has also worked as a Natural Resource Specialist for Reclamation and the Forest Service leading interdisciplinary teams in resource planning and NEPA for forest, wilderness, grazing, and recreation management, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, and other federal land activities. Caryn has served on Regional and Washington DC details as spotted owl coordinator and in legislative affairs. In 2016 she served as Acting Executive Director of TRRP for 4.5 months.

Caryn has a M.S. and B.S in Natural Resource Management from the University of Nevada, Reno. She is honored to be part of the Trinity River Restoration Program working with the TRRP staff, Partners, and stakeholders to restore and maintain the Trinity River anadromous fishery resources.

TAMWG/TMC Executive Director's report December 5, 2016

Project Coordination Specialist, Realty and Compliance Outreach: Kevin Held has accepted an offer to serve as our outreach coordinator. He started on 23 JAN 2017. Kevin has a master's degree in public administration with a concentration in environmental management, policy and law from the University of Colorado Denver. For his final capstone project Kevin evaluated community engagement efforts for one of the country's largest county open space programs while working with the agency to improve community involvement. Kevin is a returned U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer who served in the Philippines to promote environmental education and community development. Kevin has worked five seasons with the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado and Alaska and completed a Student Conservation Association internship at Rocky Mountain National Park. He has B.S. in Journalism from the University of Colorado Boulder and loves to play outside as much as possible and explore new areas.

Civil Engineer: The staff civil engineer vacancy was advertised in June but failed to produce a viable certificate of qualified applicants. It was re-advertised 28 OCT-10 NOV as a GS 9/11/12 (it was previously a GS-12) to U.S. Citizens to increase applicant pool. In-person interviews were conducted during the week of 05 DEC. A selection was made but rejected by the MP office due to an HR error in the cert. An additional candidate was interviewed and a selection has been submitted.

Grants and Agreements Specialist: Recruitment was conducted in December to replace Linsey Walker. Interviews were conducted the week of 17 JAN. Deanna Jackson, a long-time employee of the program, has accepted an offer for the position and is scheduled to start on 05 February.

Science Updates

- Workgroup Summaries (see Technical Workgroup Attachment 1)
- 2018 Science Workplan framework released
- Aerial photography from summer 2016 is now posted at <http://odp.trp.net/Data/Packages/PackageDetails.aspx?package=90>
- Lidar for the coming 64 km terrain model (and Bucktail as-built) was flown November 17

Implementation Update

Bucktail Channel Rehabilitation Site Construction

- Final grading, mulching, seeding, and strawing were completed in October. In order to safeguard the extensive reseeding that had been undertaken and at BLM's suggestion, vehicle barriers were constructed out of logs to line the roadside where 4WD vehicles might have caused damage to the site. Boulders were placed along the road near the R-6 feature as a safety precaution to prevent vehicles from driving into the water. The access road was repaved to BLM specs. As a courtesy to the landowners with an inholding in the NW corner of the project area, boulders and a gate were installed to prevent the consistent trespass issue adjacent to the existing boat launch; the gate will also prevent vehicles from circumventing the roadside barriers and accessing the seeded area on BLM land. Some revegetation is planned for this winter, but the majority of planting will take place in fall/winter 2017/2018.

Upper Junction City and Lorenz Gulch revegetation work

- Most remaining irrigation infrastructure was removed from the Lorenz Gulch site in October-November. Additional revegetation work by personnel with Restoration Resources was completed at Upper Junction City through early December to close out their contract obligations to the program.

Compliance

- FEMA compliance: New Trinity River Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) became effective on 20 July 2016. These new maps were based on new hydrology and terrain models that the TRRP was instrumental in providing. DWR conducted HEC-RAS modeling to estimate flood hazard zones (1% and 0.2% recurrence zones) along the river. The new FIRMs map defines the floodway and FEMA guidelines require that a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) application be submitted for any construction that proposes changes in the base flood elevation (100 year flood zone) of > 0.0 feet.

Applications for a CLOMR are generally done with "FINAL" designs (not prior to NEPA) and require approximately 6 months to receive the final CLOMR letter. FEMA assisted the TRRP with our process at Bucktail and we are looking at options to streamline wherever possible. A Sheridan-Deep Gulch application was submitted to FEMA on 21 DEC. Blair Greimann, Reclamation's PE to certify TRRP projects for the FEMA process, has worked with DWR staff (Julia Delphi and Todd Hillaire), Trinity County (Leslie Hubbard), and TRRP partners in this FEMA effort. In addition, LOMRs are required for LJC, UDC, Limekiln Gulch, and Bucktail.

- Bucktail CLOMR/LOMR: The final CLOMR for Bucktail was received from FEMA on 17 SEP 2016. Following completion of surveys and receipt of as-built drawings, modeling will be repeated to confirm flood elevations calculated from the design topography. Once this is done, Trinity County will apply for the LOMR, likely next spring.
- Deep Gulch and Sheridan Design/NEPA/CEQA: 90% design drawings have been completed for the combined Deep Gulch/Sheridan project. These were the basis for a CLOMR application in December, with the expectation of a CLOMR being received within 6 months of the complete application (June 2017). TRRP partners are working with FEMA to facilitate the process. Chapters 1 and 2 of the EA were reviewed by the BLM in October; the remainder of the admin draft was received during the week of 16 January. Admin DRAFT review by TRRP partners will take place during January and February. We anticipate releasing a draft for public comment on 28 February.
- Dutch Creek Design/NEPA/CEQA: Flood modeling by DWR identified FEMA compliance concerns (increases in 100 year flood elevations in proximity to right-bank structures) related to the proposed left-bank side channel and spoiling at the lower Dutch Creek site. A design team meeting was held on that topic on 19 OCT and further discussion was had at their 30 NOV-01 DEC meeting. The Design Team determined that, given the need to change Lower Dutch Creek designs, that entire Dutch Creek site should be considered as substantial habitat gains are probable there and access might be limited by construction of the Lower Dutch Creek Project. Further decisions regarding individual design features need to be made, but at this stage the intent is to conduct NEPA on a full Dutch Creek design under USFS, BLM, and private management, emphasizing the central portion of the environmental study limit boundary.
- Winter Base Flow Variability NEPA: Following Flow WG discussion of alternative winter hydrographs leading up to and at the last TMC meeting, TRRP staff and BOR consulted with the DOI Office of the Solicitor, who counseled that we would be well served to develop an EA to analyze potential impacts of changes to the hydrograph during that period. An ad hoc team of program staff and partners is working to

develop a focused EA. An admin draft will likely be available for comment in spring of 2017, with a decision regarding WY18 winter base flow variability to follow.

- Programmatic NMFS BA: An Admin Draft BA to analyze the effects of updated TRRP activities (channel rehabilitation, sediment management, and watershed restoration activities) on SONCC coho salmon and essential fish habitat has been reviewed by BLM, USFS, and NMFS staff. TRRP activities are likely to adversely affect SONCC coho salmon and require formal consultation. NMFS provided input to update: 1) the environmental baseline condition – so that TRRP objectives might compare to current conditions and inform recommendations for action. This condition could be used to assist with evaluation of proposed watershed projects for their effectiveness, 2) TRRP activity descriptions to those currently in place versus written descriptions (e.g., accurate decision-making processes from the work groups, how AEAM is implemented, and the science work plan), 3) Include research & monitoring (Section 10: scientific permitting) activities, and 4) Detail proposed watershed activities which may take place. Movement forward on the BA has been slowed substantially as the previous contract ended in June 30 2016. Contracting oversight at Reclamation is now evaluating TRRP's ability to complete the BA under our current environmental contract with North State Resources. We anticipate that work on the BA will restart in January. Review/input by all TRRP partners will be requested after land managers and federal nexus partner needs have been determined.
- Programmatic FWS BA: An Admin Draft BA to analyze the effects of TRRP activities on wildlife (e.g., Northern Spotted Owl (NSO), bald eagle, Yellow Billed Cuckoo) has been reviewed by the USFWS, BLM, and USFS. Similar needs to update proposed TRRP activities are required as in the NMFS BA, however, so long as management guidelines are adhered to (e.g., following limited operating periods and habitat criteria for work) TRRP proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect the NSO (the only relatively common Trinity River terrestrial species currently protected by the ESA) and only informal consultation is needed. In order to facilitate restoration work within the Trinity River watershed, this wildlife BA will also be available for edit/review by TRRP partners and collaborators. Work on this BA will likely resume in January following resolution of a contracting issue.

Landowner issues

- In a push to complete work and demobilize equipment ahead of a rainstorm in late October, contractors worked outside of scheduled work hours and days including on a weekend. This had not been communicated to the program nor to the adjacent landowners, much to the consternation of a vacation rental business across the river. The need to communicate proposed changes to the TRRP office in order to not undermine our credibility was communicated to contractor staff.
- A landowner who uses the private road off of Sky Ranch which is on a different owner's property (with whom we have a realty agreement) came to the program with concerns about impacts to the road where it crosses a wetland area. He also specifically expressed questions about the safety of heavy equipment use of the road. A geotechnical engineer provided an opinion on the latter issue during late December, and a contractor will be placing road base at the low spot where the road crosses the wetland to mitigate the former concern.

Public Outreach Update

- **08 October 2016** – Trinity County Salmon Festival
- **20 October 2016** – North State Public Radio story on TRRP aired
- **22 October 2016** – Spawning Day at Trinity River Hatchery
- **02 November 2016** – 2015 Annual Report completed and posted on TRRP website

TAMWG/TMC Executive Director's report December 5, 2016

- 29 November 2016 – Eureka Times Standard story on Bucktail
- 01 December 2016 – Lost Coast Outpost story on Bucktail

Save the Date

- XX February 2017 – TRRP Public Open House

Publications and Reports:

- Stream Salmonid Simulator (SSS) Workshop Presentations. October 2016
- Borok, S. 2016. Annual report. Trinity River basin salmon and steelhead monitoring project: 2015 angler creel surveys in the lower Klamath River. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation agreement R13AC20027. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Redding, California.
- Bradley, D. N. 2016. Trinity River 40 Mile Hydraulic Model: Development and Analysis. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP), Technical Service Center report no SRH-2016-27. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, Colorado.
- Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department and McBain Associates. 2016. Water year 2015 Trinity River Restoration Program riparian monitoring report. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department, Hoopa, California.
- Kier, M. C. and J. Hileman. 2016. Annual report. Trinity River basin salmon and steelhead monitoring project: chinook and coho salmon and fall-run steelhead run-size estimates using mark-recapture methods, 2016-16 season. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation agreement R13AC20027. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Redding, California.
- McBain Associates. 2015. Trinity River active bar mapping. Lewiston Dam to the North Fork Trinity River confluence, summer 2014. Prepared for the Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries. McBain Associates, Arcata, California.
- Stephens, J. L., S. M. Rockwell, and E. E. Armstrong. 2016. Trinity River bird and vegetation monitoring: 2015 report card, version 1.0. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). KBO-2016-0014, Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, Oregon.
- Stephens, J. L., S. M. Rockwell, and E. E. Armstrong. 2016. Trinity River bird and vegetation monitoring: report card methods. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, Oregon.
- TRRP. 2016. Restoration Flow Releases on the Trinity River – Water Year 2015. Workgroup Report WR-TRRP-2016-1. Trinity River Restoration Program, Weaverville, California.
- TRRP. 2016. Trinity River Restoration Program 2015 Annual Report. TRRP, Weaverville, California.

Data Packages:

- GMA Hydrology. 2016. Color aerial orthophotography collected August 3, 2016, for the Trinity River, North Fork to Lewiston Dam. Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) under US Bureau of Reclamation contract R14PC00122. GMA Hydrology, Inc. Arcata, California.

- GMA Hydrology. 2016. Terrain Surface Data Package [As-Built for Upper Douglas City]. Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) under US Bureau of Reclamation contract R14PC00122. GMA Hydrology, Inc. Arcata, California.
- GMA Hydrology and TRRP (Trinity River Restoration Program). 2016. Lower Trinity River 2014 Terrain. Data Package from GMA Hydrology with minor additions from TRRP. TRRP, Weaverville, California.
- Pryor, C. 2016. 2015 Trinity River tributary deltas survey report, post spring flow release. Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contract R14PC00122. GMA Hydrology, Inc., Arcata, California.
- Pryor, C. 2016. 2015 Junction City pools existing conditions survey report. Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contract R14PC00122. GMA Hydrology, Inc., Arcata, California.

January 24, 2017 TMC Meeting FY16 and FY17 TRRP Budget

FY16 Budget Actuals:

\$14,667,024 of the \$15,145,780 FY16 Available Budget was expended (\$478,753 unspent)

Reclamation is pursuing funds outside of the TRRP budget to fund the Refinement. If successful, it would mitigate up to \$235k of the FY16 unspent funds that were lost. (*Refinement Budget Estimate: ~\$275k total planned, \$40k already in FY17 planned budget*).

- **NOTE:** FY16 TMC Approved Budget was \$44,220 higher than actual available funds (*FWS portion provided was lower than originally estimated in approved budget*).
- Budget spreadsheet shows many underruns and overruns of TMC FY16 Approved vs. FY16 Actuals (*see below*)

FY 16 Actuals

Budget Area	Difference in Approved vs. Actuals	Primary Reasons for Difference (only items ~\$100k or greater difference are listed)
Summary Funding Sources	<i>\$44,220k of amounts below wasn't available</i>	<u>Actual appropriated amount ended up being less than anticipated.</u>
Program Administration	<i>\$97,339 <u>not spent</u></i>	\$347k FWS salaries (added with TMC ok after original Approved was developed) \$189k NCAO and MP Region Acquisitions not spent
Rehabilitation Implementation	<i>\$365,251 <u>not spent</u></i>	\$110k TRRP Salaries not spent \$262k NEPA/Permits more spent \$495K Construction Projects not spent \$244k Watershed more spent (but will be added to FY17 Budget FS de-ob)
Science Program	<i>\$60,383 <u>not spent</u></i>	\$120k River Corridor, planned for reprogramming for Refinement, wasn't obligated in time for FY16

FY17 Budget Topics

1. FY17 budget item identified as likely underfunded based on FY15 and FY16 Actuals:

- **Likely Underfunded: ~\$240k**

TRRP Office operations: (office rent, IT, fleet, office supplies, travel, training, etc.) Budgeted in FY17 at half of FY16 actuals. Suggest increasing \$240k to expected cost. *Majority of this underfunded amount was TRRP fleet that was paid by NCAO in 2015 and shouldn't have been and won't be in the future.*

- **Suggested areas that could be reduced to fund the \$240k shortfall:**

Riparian Bird Monitoring: Jenny and James worked with KBO on estimate. Only \$36k of the budgeted \$160k was determined needed; \$124k could go to Office Operations.

Watershed: Suggest decreasing previously identified surplus of \$189k by \$116k.

2. ED suggested plan for TMC consideration to avoid/minimize unspent TRRP FY17 funds:

- FY funding actuals updates could be provided at TMC quarterly meetings to help track budget as previously approved by TMC. May help predict some expenditures, however many come in very late in FY or after FY end.
- Linsey submitted a request for Reclamation's "unfunded needs" \$ for an additional \$500k for Watershed; should find out in March.

ED recommended that Watershed RFP be increased to \$1.25 million in case the extra \$500k watershed funding becomes available and to accommodate TMC passed motion of funding up to an additional \$250k with surplus funds. If feasible within Reclamation acquisition timeframes could fund next ranked watershed proposal(s).

- Other ideas from TMC on how to avoid unspent funds?

3. FY17 budget options if TMC wants to purchase the JC House:

- Estimated Budget is \$550k: \$150k compliance FY17 and \$400k FY18 purchase + demo and move.
- Only option identified for FY17 \$150k amount needed would be to reduce construction budget in FY17 by \$150k. Unless TMC wants to revisit use of surplus funds for this purpose.
- Other ideas from TMC of what FY17 funds to use for these costs?